

Message Text

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10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SCCT-01 ARA-06 /078 W
----- 033872

R 161823Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3296
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJ: RETURN OF EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS TO MADRID

REF : MADRID 6893

SUMMARY: ALMOST ALL OF THE EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS RECALLED FROM
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SPAIN IN PROTEST FOR EXECUTIONS OF FIVE CONVICTED TERRORISTS

HAVE RETURNED TO MADRID. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN IS ONLY ONE YET TO REAPPEAR FROM EC COUNTRIES. MEANWHILE, GOS HAS NOW RECALLED ITS EUROPEAN MISSION CHIEFS TO MADRID FOR CONSULTATIONS. ABSENCE OF ANY SPANISH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES IN PORTUGAL IS REPORTEDLY CAUSING PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FOR LARGE SPANISH COLONY THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. OF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH RECALLED THEIR AMBASSADORS IN PROTEST OVER THE EXECUTION OF FIVE CONVICTED TERRORISTS, PORTUGAL WAS THE FIRST TO SEND BACK ITS AMBASSADOR, APPARENTLY IN THE HOPE OF HAVING HIM SMOOTH OVER SPANISH ANGER AT THE SACKING IN ITS EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, AND CONSULATE. THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE HIS RETURN OCTOBER 4. SPAIN HAS NO DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME, A CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH REPORTEDLY HAD LED TO SOME PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE LARGE SPANISH COLONY IN PORTUGAL. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL MET WITH FRANCO OCTOBER 15, PRESUMABLY TO REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS THERE AND TO LEARN WHAT THE CAUDILLO THOUGHT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. THE FRG AND THE UK LED THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN HAVING THEIR AMBASSADORS RETURN TO MADRID OCTOBER 8. THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR RETURNED OCT 9 AND THE SWEDISH, NORWEGIAN, BELGIAN, AND DANISH AMBASSADORS OCTOBER 10. AS OF OCT 15 ONLY THE ITALIAN AND FINNISH AMBASSADOR HAD NOT REAPPEARED. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S RETURN WAS MADE TO APPEAR AS IF HE HAD NEVER BEEN RECALLED BUT HAD BEEN RETAINED IN FRANCE ON AN EXTENDED VACATION.

3. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO ITALY WAS RECALLED TO MADRID FOR CONSULTATIONS OCT 13 ALONG WITH THE SPANISH MISSION CHIEFS IN EUROPE TO DISCUSS THE PRESENT SITUATION, ACCORDING TO AN MFA ANNOUNCEMENT. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN WHO HAD BEEN RECALLED FOLLOWING THE POPE'S THREE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLEMENCY FOR THE CONDEMNED TERRORISTS, HAS RETURNED TO ROME.

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4. THE RECALL OF THE GDR AMBASSADOR HAS LED TO THE DECISIONS TO HAVE SYRIA LOOK AFTER GDR'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND SWITZERLAND TO LOOK AFTER SPAIN'S IN THE GDR. THE ONLY OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH DEPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, THE CPR AND CUBA, REFRAINED FROM TAKING ACTIONS WHICH WOULD UPSET BILATERAL RELATIONS, INDEED, THE CUBAN REP ON THE THREE-MAN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE OF THE UN'S DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

REPORTEDLY FULLY ENDORSED SPAIN'S POSITION IN THE REPORT OF ITS VISIT TO THE SPANISH SAHARA.

5. THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE FRG AMBASSADOR'S RETURN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT 30 SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ADHERENTS HAD UNDERGONE A ONE-WEEK COURSE AT THE KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION IN WEST BERLIN. THE FRG HAS A MAJOR STAKE IN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR FUTURE LEADERS OF SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. THE FRG APPARENTLY SEEKS A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO INFLUENCE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN, AND TO AVOID SENSATIONAL GESTURES WHICH PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF OPPONENTS OF REFORM AND ALSO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF EXTREME LEFTISTS BY POLARIZING POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT THE EXPENSE OF MODERATE, REFORM-MINDED GROUPS IN THE MIDDLE.
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